

Part B State Annual Performance Report (APR) for 2007-2008

Overview of the Annual Performance Report Development:

The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) first compiled and analyzed data for the development of the Annual Performance Report/State Performance Plan (SPP) utilizing the expertise of internal personnel. A draft along with the data was reviewed with the Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee (RISEAC). RISEAC advises the Commissioner and Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education on matters concerning: (a) the unmet educational needs of children with disabilities; (b) comments publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the State regarding the education of children with disabilities; (c) advises the Rhode Island Department of Education in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary under section 618 of the IDEA; (d) advises the RIDE in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in Federal Monitoring Reports under Part B of the IDEA; and (e) advises the RIDE in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities. Membership of the committee is composed of individuals involved in or concerned with the education of children with disabilities. Parents of children with disabilities birth through 26 maintain the majority of the Committee Membership. The Membership also includes individuals with disabilities, teachers, representatives of institutions of higher education, private schools, charter schools, state and local education officials, administrators of programs for children with disabilities foster care and homelessness, vocational, community or business organizations, juvenile and adult corrections and State Child Serving Agencies. The SEAC reviewed the draft and provided suggestions and input. These were incorporated into the final copy of this document.

Monitoring Priority: Effective General Supervision Part B / General Supervision

Indicator –: 18: Percent of hearing requests that went to resolution sessions that were resolved through resolution session settlement agreements.

39%

Measurement: Percent = [3.1(a) divided by 3.1] times 100.	39
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FFY	Measurable and Rigorous Target
2007 - 2008	Target set at 45%

Actual Target Data for 2007-2008:

39% (23 resolution sessions 9 resolution agreements)

Valid and reliable data for 2006 -2007 was not available, as there was no reliable and valid data collection system in place.

Discussion of Improvement Activities Completed and Explanation of Progress or Slippage that occurred for (2007-2008):

The reason the target hit was slightly below the target set was in part due to the fact that improvement activities for all due process systems include communication and opportunity to resolve

disputes prior to filing for a due process hearing. Because parents and districts have more opportunities to resolve disputes prior to initiation of a due process hearing, it is less likely that a resolution meeting will result in an agreement.

A new data system is being developed requiring districts to record and report resolution sessions to the Department of Education. This data will be collected on a form developed by the Department of Education, a sample of this form will be included with the assurances provided to OSEP following the verification visit. Data collected will include if and when a resolution session is held, if mediation is used in place of the resolution session (and if the parties agree to continue mediation after the 30 day timeline and if/when a party withdraws from mediation), the result of the resolution session, whether or not the resolution session was waived by both parties, and if the parties agree in writing that no agreement is possible. If the resolution session is waived, mediation extends beyond the 30 day timeline, or both parties agree that no agreement can be reached prior to the 30 day timeline, then notification will be sent to the Department of Education, and the Department will adjust the timelines and inform the hearing officer. Additionally, a database will be created to electronically record this relevant data. This will improve data collection and ensure that timelines for hearings are adhered to. Technical assistance offered by OSEP will be included in the new data collection system.

Revisions, with Justification, to Proposed Targets / Improvement Activities / Timelines / Resources for (2007 -2008)

not applicable

Additional Information

OSEP's June 15, 2007 FFY 2005 SPP/APR response table required the State to include in the FFY 2006 APR, due February 1, 2008, a description of what the percentages listed in the SPP targets represent. The State offers the following: Valid and reliable data for 2006 -2007 was not available, as there was no reliable and valid data collection system in place. The state did not provide data on this indicator for the 2006 – 2007 year for this reason.

As part of the OSEP verification visit report, there was a request that the state report accurate, valid and reliable data for indicator 18. Data used for this submission, the 2007 – 2008 year, is based on a data collection system recommended by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) staff during the OSEP verification visit to the Rhode Island Department of Education during the week of September 15, 2008. This data is accurate, valid and reliable.

Future data collection will be through a revised data collection system, a model form to ensure proper data collection will be included in an assurance letter that will be submitted to OSEP. This data collection system will ensure accurate, valid and reliable data for this indicator for future submissions.